Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report of the Government of Algeria on measures it has taken to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and to achieve the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

1. In compliance with the provisions of the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in 2000, which requested all States Parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2005 Review Conference as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the achievement of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria has the honour to report as follows:

2. Algeria considers that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone is an effective contribution to the strengthening of regional peace and security and helps to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and to achieve the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

3. Given their proximity and the close ties between Africa and the Middle East, Algeria is deeply concerned at the lack of progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in this highly sensitive region. It therefore believes that practical steps must be taken to implement the provisions of the 1995 resolutions on the Middle East, which was submitted by the three NPT depositary States and adopted by the Fifth Review Conference.

In this regard, Algeria recalls that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference reaffirms the importance of this resolution and considers that, pending the realization of its goals and objectives, the resolution remains valid.

4. Algeria also endorses the position articulated by the States Parties at the Sixth Review Conference, calling on Israel to accede to the NPT and to submit its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to achieve the goal of universal adherence to the

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Treaty in the Middle East region and to realize the legitimate aspiration for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

5. Algeria has chosen to promote research into the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Accordingly, it has acceded to the NPT and concluded in March 1996 a comprehensive safeguards agreement under which all its nuclear activities are subject to IAEA inspection in accordance with Article II of the Treaty. Algeria also ratified in July 2003 the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

6. Algeria's actions have always been aimed at promoting the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world. It has subscribed to the Declaration of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the Denuclearization of Africa and, on 11 February 1998, it became the third African State to have ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). In that spirit, Algeria welcomed the creation of similar zones in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga) and South-East Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), which have considerably reduced the risk of nuclear proliferation and contributed to the strengthening of international peace and security. It also welcomes the efforts being made by the five States of Central Asia to conclude a treaty for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region.

7. As a member of the Group of Arab States, Algeria is a co-sponsor of the draft resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, submitted each year to the United Nations General Assembly, and supports the resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. It also participated actively in the working group on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones during the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, held in April 1999.